

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 07006 230905Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SCS-06 CA-01 OPR-02 A-01  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 /068 W

-----001137 230911Z /15

O 230933Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6676

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 7006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, ET, US, IT, GW, FR, KE, SZ, NL, UK, CA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PROTECTING POWER

1. WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT OVERNIGHT  
TO POSSIBLE PROTECTING POWER SHOULD EPMG DECIDE TO  
BREAK RELATIONS ENTIRELY. FOLLOWING ARE OUR RECOMMENDA-  
TIONS IN DESCENDING ORDER BOTH OF FEASIBILITY AND OF  
PROTECTION OF US INTERESTS, AT LEAST FROM ADDIS  
PERSPECTIVE.

A. ITALY. EPMG RELATIONS WITH ITALY SEEM TO BE IN-  
PROVING NOTABLY WITH INVITATION EXTENDED TO HIGH LEVEL  
DELEGATION TO VISIT ETHIOPIA ASAP AFTER NEW YEAR. ITALIAN  
EMBASSY IS ONE OF LARGEST HERE AND ITALIANS  
KNOW THEIR WAY AROUND AND IN AND OUT ADDIS AS WELL AS  
ANY WESTERNERS. THEY COULD PRESUMABLY ALSO HIRE LOCAL  
ITALIANS IF NECESSARY TO TAKE ON INCREASED CUSTODIAL  
DUTIES. THEY ARE CONSIDERED ONLY "MINOR IMPERIALISTS."  
IN ADDITION, ITALIAN EMBASSY SEES THAT IT CAN NEVER  
ITSELF LEAD TO BREAK WITH EPMG BECAUSE OF HOSTAGE  
ITALIAN POPULATION, AND IT IS LIKELY TO STAY AROUND  
AS LONG AS ANY WESTERNERS.

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B. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. FRG-EPMG RELATIONS  
ARE AS GOOD AS ANY WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES, PROBABLY  
THE BEST. GERMAN STAFF IS RELATIVELY SMALL BUT COULD  
BE EXPECTED TO DO JOB MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN ANY OTHERS.  
IT SEEMS ALMOST TOSS-UP BETWEEN ITALY AND FRG.

C. FRANCE. FRENCH EMBASSY HAS RELATIVELY LARGE STAFF,

BUT GOF IS SO CAREFUL TO STAY ALOOF OF IDENTIFICATION  
WITH USG THAT IT MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE ON JOB.  
WE ARE NOT AWARE OF FRENCH EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD  
WHICH GERMANS AND ITALIANS HAVE.

D. KENYA. KENYA IS EXCELLENT FRIEND OF BOTH EPMG  
AND US. STAFF IS RELATIVELY LARGE AND WE BELIEVE THE  
MOST EFFICIENT OF AFRICAN EMBASSIES. WE BELIEVE  
IT WOULD BE PRECEDENT SETTING TO HAVE AFRICAN COUNTRY  
REPRESENT US AND MIGHT SERVE OUR CONTINENTAL-WIDE  
INTERESTS.

E. SWEDEN. SWEDISH EMBASSY IS AS WELL STAFFED AND  
EFFICIENT AS ANY MEDIUM SIZE EMBASSY IN ADDIS. THERE  
HAS BEEN AND REMAINS ENORMOUS GOOD WILL BETWEEN  
PRESENT SWEDISH AMBASSADOR AND US ACOMS, BUT WE ARE  
NOT AWARE OF STAUNCHLY NEUTRALIST SWEDEN EVER TAKING  
ON THIS TASK.

F. CANADA. THE STAFF IS TOO SMALL TO HANDLE JOB  
BUT IT COULD PRESUMABLY BRING IN EXTRA PERSONNEL  
IF WE PAID THE BILL.

G. NETHERLANDS. THE STAFF IS TOO SMALL TO HANDLE  
JOB BUT IT COULD PRESUMABLY BRING IN EXTRA PERSONNEL  
IF WE PAID THE BILL.  
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H. UK. HAVING TURNED DOWN THEIR SUGGESTION THAT WE  
STAND BY AS POTENTIAL PROTECTING POWER FOR THEM, IT  
IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY UPON OUR  
REQUEST ALTHOUGH RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO EMBASSIES ARE  
EXCELLENT.

I. SWITZERLAND. STAFF IS MUCH TOO SMALL TO HANDLE  
JOB AND PRESENT AMBASSADOR IS FRIGHTENED FOR HIS  
OWN SAFETY (HAVING EVACUATED FAMILY) AND SHOWS NO  
NATURAL RAPPORT WITH ETHIOPIANS. IF AMBASSADOR HAD  
CHOICE HE WOULD CLOSE SWISS EMBASSY ENTIRELY.

2. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, NOT INFORMED ANY OF THESE  
EMBASSIES THAT WE HAVE LEARNED OF A THREAT TO BREAK  
OR TO REDUCE RELATIONS.

3. ACTION REQUEST: GUIDANCE.  
MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 142508  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE PROTECTING POWER  
**TAGS:** PDIP, ET, US, IT, GE, FR, KE, SZ, NL, UK, CA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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